

grew out of a private archive kept since 1993 by its founder, José Gutierrez, who, in turn, organized the first DC Latino Pride in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch DC Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion held the day before the annual Capital Pride parade to this year's series of events between May 20 and June 7: La Corona, La Plática, La Misa, and La Fiesta. The four events incorporate the elements of DC Latino Pride's 2012 theme: "History, Celebration, Identity, and Diversity."

The volunteers who staff the Latino LGBT History Project and who are organizing DC Latino Pride also embody the 2012 theme. This year's organizers include: David M. Perez, the president of the Latino LGBT History Project and the Director of Development for the League of United Latin American Citizens; José Gutierrez, a member of Mayor Vincent Gray's LGBT Advisory Council and a member of La Clínica del Pueblo community health center; Mannuel Cosme, treasurer of the Latino LGBT History Project and CFO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Jorge Andres Sotos, secretary of the Latino LGBT History Project and a civil rights attorney in private practice; Esther Hidalgo, a manager at Leslie Cashen Photography and a Library and Archives Assistant at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. The 2012 Latino Pride co-chairs are Sergio Lopez and Oskar Moran, who work for, respectively, the People for the American Way and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate-Aviation Safety Program Office. The 2012 Development Chair, Raul Olivo, is the immediate past co-chair and parade manager, and is a health educator and advocate for Transgender Health Empowerment.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 6th annual DC Latino Pride, welcoming all those who will attend, and congratulating the volunteers for work well done.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKELAND HILLS FAMILY YMCA

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, in the Borough of Mountain Lakes, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

The Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, originally called the Boonton Area YMCA, was first formed in the Boonton area in 1865 and occupied several sites throughout the area. However, it was not until 1912 that it filed its official YMCA charter. In 1960, it moved to Cherry Hill Road in Parsippany. Since it was then serving seven different communities, it decided to adopt the name Lakeland Hills YMCA. In 1968, the Lakeland Hills YMCA was able to move to its final location in Mountain Lakes on Fanny Road. To cover the costs of both the move and building of the facility, the Trustees added a Building Fund pledge to the membership, and with the support of its members, the new YMCA was able to open its doors in 1972.

The early years as the combined YMCA, saw the addition of a children's day care, aerobics program, and senior program. The aquatic and physical education programs were expanded and the YMCA sponsored an "Adult Club" which offered programs and trips.

Unfortunately, the early years for the Y brought financial difficulties, even as membership continued to grow. These financial difficulties were alleviated by a "miracle" donation from Ms. Esther Dutton who was so impressed by the staff and members that she remembered the Y in her will. In 1978, with this new funding, plans to double the size of the center were undertaken to include a gymnasium, racquetball courts, and a running track. The Y has since undergone numerous renovations, including those to add additional childcare classrooms.

Moreover, the Y announced a scholarship for less fortunate children to attend childcare and day camp in 2007. That same year the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA announced the creation of a Kid's Cardio Arcade and began a Kid's Wellness Month program. They also joined the YMCA's national programs of Healthy Kids Day and Activate America.

Today the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA boasts 11,000 members and serves ten different communities in Morris County. It seeks to build strong families, and in doing so, build strong communities. The YMCA currently offers a wide range of programs including a childhood daycare center, educational programs for children, a leadership training program for teens, a series of family programs, and a plethora of fitness options. It also runs an annual Give a Kid the Y campaign to allow underprivileged children to have the ability to participate in programs at the Y. The YMCA has also been proud to host a number of Special Olympics meets over its existence. Its presence in Morris County continues to enrich the lives of its members and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW T. GIBBONS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Matthew Gibbons of Johnston, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Matthew's project involved designing and completing a courtyard for St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church in Des Moines. The work ethic Matthew has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks

volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance which are core Iowa values. It's truly an honor to represent Iowa in the United States Congress and I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Matthew in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking. I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM CZMYR

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary accomplishments of William Czmyr. A longtime resident of Jewett City and a Veteran who served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, Mr. Czmyr has recently been named Veteran of the Year of the Jewett City VFW Post 10004. Based on Bill's many years of tireless service to his community, for this award could not have gone to a more worthy recipient.

As President of the Veterans Housing Project in Jewett City, Bill Czmyr has worked tirelessly over the last decade to secure critical resources for his fellow veterans. Earlier this month, Mr. Czmyr was finally able to see the result of his hard work as he walked through the apartments that 18 veterans will soon call home. Not only will these formerly homeless vets have a place to live, but thanks to Bill, they will have also have access to counseling and mental health services.

Mr. Czmyr was also fundamental in securing the funds to make this dream a reality. By coordinating with my office, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, he won vital grants to bring hope and peace of mind for the men and women who are set to move into the apartments this June. I urge my colleagues to join with me in congratulating William Czmyr for being named Veteran of the Year. His patriotism and dedication to veterans inspire us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote 291 on Friday, May 18, 2012 because I was tending to a family matter. H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2013 does not sufficiently address the strategic or fiscal realities we are facing and I would have voted "no" on its passage. I would not in good conscience have been able to vote for this authorization bill that forces the Pentagon to accept \$8 billion that it neither requested, needs, nor wants. Many weapons programs, like upgrades to the Army's ground vehicles, were funded not only above the